

## Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-02 PRS-01

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R 282100Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL CALGARY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1639

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS CALGARY 173

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA

SUBJ: ALBERTA OIL OBSERVERS GENERALLY FAVOR FEDERAL  
GOVERNMENT S NEW ENERGY POLICIES

1. REACTIONS OF ALBERTA GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PROVINCIAL OIL AND GAS EXECUTIVES TO THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT S ABANDONMENT OF ITS SELF-SUFFICIENCY POLICY IN FAVOR OF MINIMIZING CANADIAN DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN SUPPLIES HAS BEEN MIXED, BUT MOST INDIVIDUALS ACCEPT IT AS A MORE REALISTIC POLICY . THE STATEMENT ISSUED TUESDAY BY FEDERAL ENERGY MINISTER ALASTAIR GILLESPIE TAKES A CARROT-AND-STICK APPROACH TO THE ENERGY INDUSTRY. IT PROMISES THE INCREASED PRICES AND LONG-TERM REGULATIONS HOPED FOR BY THE INDUSTRY, BUT IT ALSO WARNS THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO MONITOR INDUSTRY INVESTMENT AND TO FORCE FASTER EXPLORATION.

2. DON GETTY, ALBERTA ENERGY MINISTER, SAYS THE NEW SELF-RELIANCE POLICY IS EVIDENCE THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED ARGUMENTS WHICH ALBERTA HAS BEEN MAKING , AND HE WELCOMED THE RE-AFFIRMATION OF OTTAWA TO ALLOW DOMESTIC PRICES FOR CANADIAN

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OIL AND GAS TO RISE TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL LEVELS.

3. CANDAINA PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION GENERAL MANAGER HANS MACIEJ  
EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THE INDUSTRY WOULD HAVE ENOUGH CASH TO MEET  
THE GOVERNMENT S GOAL OF A DOUBLING IN FRONTIER EXPLORATION  
IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS. R.F. RUBEN, PRESIDENT OF THE  
INDEPENDENT PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION, SAID THE TONE OF THE  
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT S STATEMENT WAS VERY REALISTIC , BUT  
HE EMPHASIZED THAT INCREASED CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN  
NORTHERN EXPLORATION WILL NOT COME WITHOUT TAX INCENTIVES  
DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE INCREASED INVESTMENT. CHARLES  
HEATHERINGTON, PRESIDENT OF PANARCTIC OILS LIMITED, SUPPORTS  
THE POLICY STATEMENTS AND IS PARTICULARLY HAPPY WITH THE  
ATTENTION DEVOTED TO GREATER FRONTIER EXPLORATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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